

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 13, 2009  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 31, 2009  
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 665**

---

**Introduced by Assembly Member Torrico**

February 25, 2009

---

An act to amend Section 16131.5 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to children, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 665, as amended, Torrico. State adoption services: investment.

Existing law provides for child welfare services, which are public social services directed toward, among other purposes, protecting and promoting the welfare of all children, including those in foster care placement.

Under existing law, the State Department of Social Services may provide state adoption services in a county that has not established a county adoption agency. Existing law requires the state to reinvest incentive payments, received through the implementation of specified provisions of federal law, into the child welfare system, in order to provide adoption services for older children.

This bill would, instead, require the state to reinvest these *adoption* incentive payments into the child welfare system, in order to provide legal permanency outcomes for older children, as specified.

This bill would continuously appropriate the amount of the *adoption* incentive payments to the State Department of Social Services for allocation to counties, and the department for a county in which the department serves as an adoption agency, based on documented legal

permanency outcomes for older children—*in achieved by* each county for the purpose of improving legal permanency outcomes for older children, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 16131.5 of the Welfare and Institutions  
2 Code is amended to read:

3 16131.5. (a) The state shall reinvest *adoption* incentive  
4 payments received through the implementation of the federal  
5 Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act  
6 of 2008 (Public Law 110-351) ~~for placement of older children, as~~  
7 ~~defined in that act,~~ into the child welfare system, in order to provide  
8 legal permanency outcomes for *older* children, including, but not  
9 limited to, adoption, guardianship, and reunification of children  
10 whose reunification services were previously terminated.

11 (b) Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code,  
12 the amount of *adoption* incentive payments received pursuant to  
13 subdivision (a) are hereby continuously appropriated without regard  
14 to the fiscal year to the State Department of Social Services for  
15 allocation to the counties, and the department for a county in which  
16 the department serves as an adoption agency, based on documented  
17 *increases in* legal permanency outcomes for older children—~~in~~  
18 *achieved by* each county, *as determined by the department, in*  
19 *consultation with counties*, for the purposes specified in this  
20 section.

21 (c) A county, or the department when it acts as the adoption  
22 agency for a county, shall use *adoption* incentive payment funds  
23 to improve *or sustain* legal permanency outcomes for older  
24 children. A county shall reinvest savings that result from successful  
25 legal permanency outcome efforts for older children into activities  
26 that improve legal permanency outcomes for older children.

27 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to supplant funds  
28 currently being spent on programs to provide legal permanency  
29 outcomes.

O